

□ Philadelphia, Pa—Today, Congressman Sestak (PA-07) spoke at the 30<sup>th</sup> Graduation of the TRIO VUB program at the University of Pennsylvania. TRIO VUB prepares Veterans for college through 14 week programs of academic study and support.

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**August 27, 2009**

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**“I applaud this program’s efforts to help our returning heroes of every branch of service to secure the productive, successful, and secure civilian futures they deserve,” Congressman Sestak said. “As a nation, we owe our Veterans and their families the health care, education, and employment opportunities they have earned in service to their fellow Americans.”**

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**The TRIO Veterans Upward Bound Program is a free program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that aims to prepare eligible veterans to enroll and be successful in college. The program at the University of Pennsylvania assists 120 students every year from Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania and Camden County in New Jersey. Participants simulate the college experience by taking classes every weeknight in a variety of subjects, and the program runs three program cycles a year.**

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***Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University.□ According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.***